1		ED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	NOR'.	THERN DISTRICT OF OHIO WESTERN DIVISION
3	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	A, - Docket No. 3:06-CR-719
4	Plaintiff,	- - Toledo, Ohio - April 25, 2008
5	v.	- April 25, 2006 - Trial
6	MOHAMMAD ZAKI AMAWI, et	al.,-
7	Defendants.	- -
8		37, TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL
9	BEFORE T	HE HONORABLE JAMES G. CARR FATES DISTRICT CHIEF JUDGE
10	APPEARANCES:	TITLE DISTRICT CHILL GODGE
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1	(Reconvened at 1:33 p.m.)
2	THE COURT: Where are we in the transcripts? I'm
00:00:04	looking for one word: Progress.
00:00:06 4	MR. SOFER: Yes.
-13:-33:-19 5	THE COURT: The adjective can be some, lots as
-13:-33:-19 6	long as it's not much.
-13:-33:-19	MR. SOFER: Some progress, Judge.
00:00:14	THE COURT: The world total would be even happier,
-13:-33:-19	but go ahead.
-13:-33:-19 10	MR. SOFER: That would make me happy as well. Mr.
00:00:24 11	Hartman and I
00:01:04 12	THE COURT: Where are we in that process?
00:01:08 13	MR. SOFER: Mr. Hartman and I agreed to meet this
-13:-33:-19 14	week and go through these one-by-one. I was somewhat heartened
00:01:16 15	by fact there are going to be disagreements; I don't think
-13:-33:-19 16	there's any question about that but on the first one we used
-13:-33:-19 17	as an example we were able to agree on everything about it, I
-13:-33:-19 18	think.
00:01:27 19	THE COURT: In terms of transcription plus extended
00:01:33 20	views?
-13:-33:-19 21	MR. SOFER: Correct. I don't think we'll get to
-13:-33:-19 22	all of them, but that would allow us to come to you with a much
00:01:39 23	smaller subset. Starting at 19, if we can agree on half it will
-13:-33:-19 24	make it much more manageable Monday evening or afternoon. I
-13:-33:-19 25	think we can finish that up before cross-examination resumes. PM Page 3464 to 3464 of 3492 4 of 32 sheet:

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00:01:52	THE COURT: Okay.
00:01:56	MR. HARTMAN: I would my understanding, and this
-13:-33:-19	could be my own recollection, but I thought the Court was going
-13:-33:-19	to allow the defense a pretty broad latitude in what it played
-13:-33:-19 5	of the tapes on cross-examination. Am I incorrect about that?
-13:-33:-19 6	THE COURT: Well, I have been. I'll hear the
-13:-33:-19	individual but I think I have been. As far as I'm
-13:-33:-19	concerned, I think, on the whole, they have been there have
-13:-33:-19 9	been relatively few disputes. But I think, as I've already
00:02:32 10	overruled, but I think it was probably by hindsight, a very well
-13:-33:-19 11	taken objection under the rule of completeness, sort of turned
-13:-33:-19 12	that on its head, it makes better sense to the jury this way
00:02:49 13	than to do it otherwise at this stage. I don't expect to
-13:-33:-19 14	change field drastically from the general pattern I've been
-13:-33:-19 15	setting. But, on the other hand, I'm hearing them out because
00:03:10 16	apparently you have a lot more, at least that you presently or
-13:-33:-19 17	have been expecting to play, than either Mr. Helmick or Mr.
00:03:20 18	Ivey.
-13:-33:-19 19	MR. HARTMAN: That's correct.
-13:-33:-19 20	THE COURT: So the fact that they got in pretty
-13:-33:-19 21	much what they wanted to, sure, I'll hear what he has to say.
00:03:33 22	MR. SOFER: As I have told Mr. Hartman, our rule
-13:-33:-19 23	of completeness objections I believe are timely here, so.
-13:-33:-19 24	THE COURT: I agree. I agree completely. I
00:03:46 25	think if viewed technically, not even hypertechnically, the
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- 3466 correct time got missed, but I think it was a common mistake. -13:-33:-19 It's one of those things, I've got a hunch, you don't want to go -13:-33:-19 down to Cincinnati and argue the Judge agreed with it, so forth -13:-33:-19 and so on. -13:-33:-19 5 Some of my objections to what Mr. 00:04:11 MR. SOFER: Hartman's trying to do to -- the government's objection that the 00:04:14 rule of completeness is not being filed now, I want to put ---13:-33:-19 not a little hanging chad, for lack of a better term, we'd like -13:-33:-19 to put in more of the election so folks understand. 00:04:29 THE COURT: Do what you can and I'll fix the rest. 00:04:33 There is a matter that we really have to talk to in 00:04:40 -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{12}$ camera on the record. $\,$ And $\,$ think we should plan to do that at 2:30. We can do it earlier. What time do you have to leave? -13:-33:-19 **14** MR. HARTMAN: I have to leave at 2:30. -13:-33:-19 **15** THE COURT: Not later than 2:15. 2:15 should be early enough. If we get done a little sooner with this, fine. I think Mr. --00:05:10 Mr. Herdman, Mr. Getz? 19 MR. GETZ: I'll go to the podium. 00:05:15 THE COURT: Mr. Bryan, if you feel tag-teamed, I 00:05:22 would understand. Go ahead, Mr. Getz. **22** MR. GETZ: The arguments the government has already 00:05:31 made with respect to the other experts, particularly the last
- hand to this one, they obviously would equally apply, but there Page 3466 to 3466 of 3492

one which defense has indicated is kind of the left or right

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-13:-33:-19	are some additional issues.
-13:-33:-19 2	THE COURT: A little slower.
00:05:58	MR. GETZ: There are some additional issues with
-13:-33:-19	regard to Mr. Aslan that are particular to him.
00:06:17 5	We have been provided with a letter from Mr.
-13:-33:-19	Amawi's Counsel that explains or sets out kind of in summary
	form the nature of the proposed testimony, and then I guess
	that's the place to start. I'd say attached to that was what
-13:-33:-19 9	was represented as being his current CV as well.
-13:-33:-19 10	There are basically in the letter six topic areas
00:06:51 11	that Mr. Aslan is being proposed as an expert to testify about.
-13:-33:-19 12	In summary those are
00:07:36 13	THE COURT: Okay.
-13:-33:-19 14	MR. GETZ: I believe the Court was copied on this
00:07:40 15	letter of April 15, 2008, as well.
00:07:43 16	But the six topic areas in kind of thumbnail
-13:-33:-19 17	fashion are, Number 1. The description of the origins and early
00:07:50 18	development of Islam. 2. The explanation of the concept of
-13:-33:-19	Jihad. 3. An explanation of the Jihadist movement. 4.
00:08:01 20	Historical explanation of the rise of the contemporary Jihadist
00:08:06 21	social group.
-13:-33:-19 22	THE COURT: Description the origin of the
00:08:11 23	development of Islam. A little slower. Even though it's all
-13:-33:-19 24	in the letter, I'm typing.
-13:-33:-19 25	The second one was?
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-13:-33:-19	MR. GETZ: Explanation of the concept of Jihad.
-13:-33:-19	Third, an explanation of the Jihadist movement. Again, these
-13:-33:-19	are somewhat shorthand.
-13:-33:-19	THE COURT: I understand.
-13:-33:-19 5	MR. GETZ: The one or two lines that were in the
-13:-33:-19 6	letter.
00:08:40 7	Number 4 was an historical explanation of the rise
-13:-33:-19	of the contemporary Jihad social movement and political
00:08:52	ideology.
-13:-33:-19 10	Number 5 was explanation of how jihadism has now
00:09:03	become a global social movement.
00:09:07 12	And 6 was termed a Sociological Explanation of How
-13:-33:-19 13	Global Social Movements Function.
00:09:27 14	We were given no other information or report of
-13:-33:-19 15	what the testimony would be or what it's based on other than
00:09:35 16	being given Mr. Aslan's CV, which indicates that currently he's
-13:-33:-19 17	an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and the co-founder of
00:09:46 18	a TV production company, apparently also a media commentator.
-13:-33:-19	That information came from other sources. He does have a
-13:-33:-19 20	master's in theology and a bachelor of arts in religion. Has a
00:09:59 21	master's in fine arts, fiction writing. He's published one
-13:-33:-19 22	book which is a non-fiction work; he's got another book, a
-13:-33:-19 23	non-fiction work due out soon. And again, from two other

-13:-33:-19 **24** sources, apparently there's an indication that he's writing a

-13:-33:-19 **25** novel.

00:10:18	From the information provided in his CV his most
00:10:21	recent commentary or article was published in the summer of
00:10:25	2006. And in reviewing the articles, or at least most of the
00:10:34	articles that were listed in the CV that I was able to obtain, a
-13:-33:-19	large percentage of those seem to relate to Iran and Pakistan.
-13:-33:-19	Mr. Aslan is a native of Iran, and that seems to be his primary
-13:-33:-19	focus and most of his commentation. There's no indication of
-13:-33:-19	any prior testimony in any court anywhere.
00:10:52	Now, the issues that are raised by the proposal of
-13:-33:-19	this particular testimony begin with and again, this is he
-13:-33:-19	has been proposed by the defense as an expert pursuant to Rule
00:11:06	2 702, 703 and 705. The first we have what the nature of his
00:11:15	specialized knowledge is. Clearly it would seem to be, or at
-13:-33:-19 14	least we could concede in part that due to his research and his
00:11:22	education, having a master's in theology, he may be working on
00:11:26 16	his Ph.D. on religious-based background, that there may be some
00:11:34	specialized knowledge or background that he has in theology or
00:11:37	religion. However, there's no indication that he's ever had
00:11:40	any education or experience or done anything in the area of
-13:-33:-19 2(sociology or politics, and that raises some issues in regards to
-13:-33:-19 2 1	at least half of the proposed topics.
00:11:53	The next question or issue is how this knowledge is
-13:-33:-19 23	going to assist the jury in either understanding the evidence,
-13:-33:-19 2 4	and certainly we have no way of knowing
-13:-33:-19 25	THE COURT: Can you repeat what you just said about
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knowledge of Islam? Back up a paragraph. -13:-33:-19 2 MR. GETZ: I was indicating I think in terms of 00:12:12 3 what specialized knowledge he brings to the table, that arguably -13:-33:-19 there may be some specialized knowledge or education in the area 00:12:18 **5** of theology and religion. That seems to be part of his -13:-33:-19 background along with fine arts. But there's no indication 00:12:26 that he's ever done anything in the realm of sociology or -13:-33:-19 politics. And in looking at the topics set out in the letter, -13:-33:-19 as a basis for his proposed testimony, at least half of those -13:-33:-19 deal with sociological movements and political ideology. We next would have to ask what the knowledge is 00:12:49 -13:-33:-19 12 going to assist -- what that specialized knowledge, assuming -13:-33:-19 13 that he has it, he's qualified to speak of it, what that is -13:-33:-19 **14** going to assist the jury in in terms of understanding the -13:-33:-19 ${f 15}$ evidence. And we've been given no indication of what evidence -13:-33:-19 16 it is that Mr. Aslan is going to assist the jury in 17 understanding, but that would be, certainly, a question for this -13:-33:-19 **18** Court to ask. Also, if not that, then determining a fact in 19 issue, again we don't know what fact is in issue that Mr. Aslan's background is going to help in. 21 We have no indication other than, I guess, his 00:13:28 22 degrees as master's in religion -- I'm assuming that's what his -13:-33:-19 23 testimony would be based upon -- but what facts or data ---13:-33:-19 **24** THE COURT: Well, he's written a book that's about to be published by Random House or has been, so no.

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00:13:55	but not small G god, but capital G God: The Origin and
-13:-33:-19	Evolution of the Future of Islam. Published March 2005.
-13:-33:-19	Okay. Go ahead.
00:14:09	MR. GETZ: Again, that book has not yet been
-13:-33:-19 5	published, so obviously we have no way of knowing that might
-13:-33:-19	have been the one that was published.
00:14:18	THE COURT: There's one coming out. I was
00:14:20	confused, too. The one I just referenced apparently was
00:14:24	published three years ago.
-13:-33:-19 10	MR. GETZ: That's correct, Your Honor. I'm sorry.
-13:-33:-19 11	THE COURT: No problem. Go ahead.
00:14:30 12	MR. GETZ: But in terms we're left not knowing
-13:-33:-19 13	what the facts or data is that his testimony is going to be
-13:-33:-19 14	based upon, and the question that's raised is, again assuming
00:14:41 15	for argument purposes, that he has some specialized knowledge
00:14:45 16	regarding religion, and even perhaps in Islam in particular, we
-13:-33:-19 17	would need to know and assess what, other than his own personal
00:14:53 18	perspective or beliefs. And again, as an Iranian, and I think
-13:-33:-19 19	he self-describes himself as a moderate, what is he opining on,
00:15:02 20	what facts or data?
00:15:03 21	THE COURT: Maybe you can find that out from
00:15:06 22	Counsel.
00:15:10 23	Where are folks on this whole business of trying to
-13:-33:-19 24	explain to the jury what Jihad means? What different kinds of
-13:-33:-19 25	meanings might there be? In terms of aside from the whole

- -13:-33:-19 1 issue, does the government agree at all to any definitions? And
- -13:-33:-19 **2** the defense, you have been able to come up with a common
- 00:15:36 **3** formulation or -- and if not, and I wouldn't be surprised if
- 00:15:41 **4** not, it really does seem to me you've got -- I ought to permit
- 5 the parties to the extent that they have differing views of what
- -13:-33:-19 **6** that term means, be it in terms of political, terrorist,
- 7 religion, whatever the meanings are, I could see having the jury
- hear very briefly from somebody on each side, tell them what it
- 00:16:14 **9** means.
- MR. GETZ: Where we are, Judge, is that is one of
- w:16:17 $\,$ $\,$ $\,$ $\,$ $\,$ $\,$ $\,$ the terms we are presently discussing with our colleagues. $\,$ $\,$ My
- -13:-33:-19 **12** understanding from having talked to Mr. Witmer-Rich, this
- -13:-33:-19 13 relates, I guess, to this consent to some extent, is that the
- 00:16:31 $oxed{14}$ defense, the Amawi defense would not -- they would seek to
- -13:-33:-19 **15** elaborate anyway on whatever definition we would have come up
- -13:-33:-19 ${f 16}$ with. I assume the witness would do that, in combination with
- 00:16:48 **17** another witness, I don't know.
- 18 Interestingly, I think Jihad is explained, once
- -13:-33:-19 19 again, in large measure by what's already in evidence; the
- 00:17:00 **20** defendants talk about it; Mr. Griffin talks about it. There's
- -13:-33:-19 **21** a lot of discussion about Jihad in the consensual recordings.
- 00:17:09 **22** Certainly though if the Court was to allow a defense expert to
- 00:17:14 **23** testify about it we would like to recall the expert.
- 00:17:23 **24** THE COURT: Do you know who that is?
- MR. GETZ: It would not be Mr. Kohlmann.

THE COURT: As knowledgeable as he strikes me, he 00:17:27 2 really does -- I have no problem with his knowing what he's -13:-33:-19 talking about, I'm not sure that his knowledge would reach to -13:-33:-19 that point. But by all means I would permit the government, -13:-33:-19 and were the government able to do so in its direct case, and I 00:17:39 think that's where it would fit. -13:-33:-19 MR. GETZ: We've begun researching this on the odd -13:-33:-19 chance -- or maybe not so odd chance -- that this was the -13:-33:-19 position that we would be put in. So we will do that. 00:17:52 -13:-33:-19 **10** Again, I'd ask the Court -- we are not that far away from the end of the government's direct case -- I would ask -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{12}$ that Your Honor suspend the usual time requirement. Obviously, 13 if we were to get notice now, there is an interpretation of the -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{14}$ law here that I don't think it would be fair that we would not -13:-33:-19 **15** be able to call such expert. Under the circumstances, it seems -13:-33:-19 f 16 it's reasonable that the government give notice as soon as we 17 figure out who this person would be. -13:-33:-19 **18** THE COURT: That's no problem, because, after all, I think technically under the rules, if I were to permit this proposed expert to testify to that, you could and he would be exposed to whatever your person said, and a little ping-pong **22** rebuttal and come-back. 23 MR. GETZ: It would be helpful to the government --00:18:46 24 this is one of the reasons we want to resolve this sooner rather -13:-33:-19 ${f 25}$ than later. If we end up with three terms, Jihad and two

- obviously the more this door
- $\mathbf{2}$ swings open, the more likely it is that it's going to cause,
- $_{00:19:04}$ $\mathbf{3}$ again, what the government believes to be problematic expansion
- -13:-33:-19 **4** of the --
- THE COURT: Lagree. It seems to me that this
- -13:-33:-19 **6** term, some of the jurors, like myself, may have come into this
- -13:-33:-19 case with a sense of Jihad, "holy war, end of discussion," and
- 00:19:24 **8** that there are a variety of -- I was dissuaded slightly by
- 9 lawyers, plaintiff's lawyer in the case. So obviously it has
- -13:-33:-19 10 to have some sense of meaning or meanings. The evidence so far
- 00:19:42 **11** indicates that there are various meanings depending upon the
- 00:19:46 **12** context. And I think it's important that the jury,
- 00:19:52 13 particularly to the extent it might have just a single concept
- -13:-33:-19 **14** in mind, be made aware that there are different or perhaps
- 00:20:03 **15** somewhat different, somewhat overlapping, interpretations of a
- 00:20:09 **16** term that is crucial in the case.
- 00:20:15 MR. GETZ: Assuming we were to say Your Honor
- -13:-33:-19 18 ruled, as the government would urge you to, limit the expert
- 00:20:24 **19** testimony to one term, let's say that's all we were focusing on.
- 00:20:28 **20** What I think Counsel is asking for is some massive description
- -13:-33:-19 **21** of history and --
- 00:20:37 THE COURT: I agree with that. I'm talking about
- $_{00:20:41}$ $\mathbf{23}$ in contemporary terms, "Jihad" has or can be used in these sorts
- -13:-33:-19 **24** of ways. In a religious context, in contemporary terms, and
- 00:20:56 **25** perhaps historically it has this or that. We don't talk about

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	the Crusader Kingdom and Richard the Lionheart and go on,
00:21:11	Palestine. I would undertake to limit that very vigorously.
00:21:24	MR. GETZ: Understood, Judge.
-13:-33:-19	THE COURT: Mr. Getz.
00:21:27 5	MR. GETZ: Just to summarize for the record the
00:21:30 6	arguments we've already presented, and in addition, because we
-13:-33:-19	don't believe that this witness in particular is qualified to
-13:-33:-19	testify as to the topics proposed in the letter provided to us
00:21:40	by the defense, and obviously again on issues of relevance, we
-13:-33:-19 10	would object to this witness.
00:21:47 11	THE COURT: And I sort of tend to agree with you
-13:-33:-19 12	about page 2, sociological. But let's hear from Mr. Bryan.
-13:-33:-19 13	MR. BRYAN: I would hope Your Honor would withhold
-13:-33:-19 14	judgment until you hear from Mr. Bryan.
00:22:04 15	THE COURT: No, no. I believe in letting people
-13:-33:-19 16	know absolutely what I'm thinking because I think among many,
-13:-33:-19 17	many unfair things for a judge to do, one is to sit up here kind
-13:-33:-19 18	of uh-uh, huh, uh-huh, then hit you with a sand bag. Judge, why
00:22:25 19	didn't you tell me?
00:22:27 20	MR. BRYAN: I did experience that widely throughout
00:22:29 21	my 16 years arguing before judges, but I won't tell you which of
-13:-33:-19 22	your colleagues. But anyway.
00:22:40 23	THE COURT: Never in Toledo. But go ahead.
00:22:43 24	MR. BRYAN: Since this is my first experience in
-13:-33:-19 25	Toledo, that's obviously the situation.
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		00
00:22:49	1	First of all, as it relates to Mr. Aslan's
00:22:53	2	qualifications as a sociologist, he's a doctoral candidate in
-13:-33:-19	3	sociology to get a Ph.D. in the sociology of religion. His
-13:-33:-19	4	thesis, which is going to be completed this fall by the end
-13:-33:-19	5	of the summer into the fall is jihadism as a social movement.
00:23:12	6	So Your Honor's already referred to the fact that someone may be
00:23:16	7	permitted to testify about Jihad and define Jihad. And quite
00:23:21	8	frankly, we'd want to bring in Mr. Aslan as an expert who not
00:23:26	9	only is a religion scholar, his masters is in divinity from
00:23:30	0	Harvard University; Theological Studies obviously with an
-13:-33:-19	1	emphasis on Islam. He is a Muslim himself from Iran. It is
-13:-33:-19	2	true, as Mr. Getz articulated
00:23:42	3	THE COURT: Let me interrupt. I've tried quite
00:23:46	4	vigorously, to some extent, disconcerted government counsel, to
-13:-33:-19	5	keep the idea of groups and group connections and so forth
-13:-33:-19	6	this seems to me the adverse of much of what Mr. Kohlmann wanted
-13:-33:-19	7	to talk about. About freedom fighters in Chechnya and Bosnia
-13:-33:-19	8	and so forth. I mean, what relevance do global groups of any
-13:-33:-19	9	particular kind have to this case where there's no real linkage
00:24:25	20	of a sense of any of these defendants having clearly established
-13:-33:-19	21	any kind of affiliation with
00:24:39	22	MR. BRYAN: Well, Your Honor, as it relates to
-13:-33:-19	23	social movement, which is part of the proffered testimony of Mr.
00:24:44	24	Aslan, social movement theory isn't necessarily you have to
-13:-33:-19	25	become a card-carrying member of a specific group or anything

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It's basically identifying with the specific like that. -13:-33:-19 ideologies. As an example of a social movement, it could be the 00:24:58 radical environmentalist group, people who -- or the -13:-33:-19 antiglobalization movement as well. There are many who believe -13:-33:-19 in those movements and believe in the causes of those movements -13:-33:-19 and believe and hope for the successful bringing about of -13:-33:-19 whatever those movements espouse. But there are few people ---13:-33:-19 and these people that it's referred to in the letter, this is 00:25:20 social movement theory in sociology. 10 THE COURT: Let me ask you this: If I recall my 00:25:28 history correctly, for much of the period that is influenced, 12 there were very few people in the South who belong to the Ku -13:-33:-19 **13** Klux Klan. There were many people in the South, 1920s, who -13:-33:-19 **14** supported much that it did as vile, as it was, and as general, -13:-33:-19 **15** segregation, southern revivalist kind of activities. And is -13:-33:-19 **16** that the kind of thing you mean? And if so, again, what $_{ ext{-}13: ext{-}33: ext{-}19}$ difference -- how would that be relative in the defense of the 18 people who have been prosecuted, particularly recently and

19 successfully, 20 years after the events of the bombings and so forth? How would that relate? And isn't that the same kind of relation you're trying to show here? No comparison; I'm trying to pick an example closer to home.

MR. BRYAN: To borrow Your Honor's analogy, there could be groups of people in the South who agree with the ideology of the Ku Klux Klan, believe African Americans are

inferior, and they're part of the devil race, and that they 00:26:58 should be exterminated from the planet, but they would never act 00:27:01 on those beliefs. Now, there are a few who belong to the Ku -13:-33:-19 Klux Klan who -- even members of the Ku Klux Klan who wouldn't 00:27:09 act on those beliefs. But there are a few who rallied lynching -13:-33:-19 mobs, and they would go out and lynch African Americans for 00:27:17 looking cross-eyed at a white woman. They're taking that same 00:27:23 idea. It would be akin to them going to the South and sending 00:27:36 in an undercover agent to sit with them, a southern bigot, and 00:27:41 -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{10}$ have him espouse that if I had the chance, I would string up that nigger myself, and I would hang him from the tree, and I $_{00:27:52}$ f 12 would hold on to the rope. If I could do that, I would; I -13:-33:-19 13 would do something like that. And I'm happy they killed that -13:-33:-19 **14** nigger because he did look cross-eyed at that girl, that white -13:-33:-19 **15** girl who was walking down the street; I'm happy about that. -13:-33:-19 **16** And then they got that person basically to say, I'm going to go -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{17}$ out to a shooting range or something and learn how to shoot so I -13:-33:-19 **18** can kill niggers ---13:-33:-19 **19** THE COURT: Again, I don't see -- again, the analogy, you would have sort of the history of the Ku Klux Klan movement and its origins and movement after the Civil War and 00:28:31 22 the Civil Rights Act, and so forth, and Reconstruction, but up -13:-33:-19 **23** through the revival of the revivalist of that and David Duke and **24** all this stuff. What --

MR. BRYAN: As far as giving the broad picture --

as far as Mr. Aslan's testimony concerning sort of jihadism as a 00:29:02 2 social movement, I don't anticipate that his testimony would be -13:-33:-19 a history course on Islam jihadism. First of all, he would 00:29:13 4 explain what Islam is. First of all, I think that's important 00.29.19 5 for the jury to understand that. And I've learned a lot myself -13:-33:-19 in this case, Your Honor. And I'll admit to some of my own -13:-33:-19 biases shortly after September 11, thinking what kind of -13:-33:-19 religion would support this atrocity, and I remember David -13:-33:-19 Letterman even saying: They say that the people who did this -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{10}$ were doing this for God. He said: I can live 1,000 years and I'll never be able to understand that concept, that this was -13:-33:-19 **12** done for God, on behalf of God. 13 THE COURT: You're moving further and further away 00:29:52 from what this case is about. 00:29:55 15 MR. BRYAN: I'm using those analogies, and a lot of 00:29:57 jurors have the same perception of our clients. 00:30:00 17 THE COURT: I don't think so. That was the whole 00:30:02 -13:-33:-19 18 purpose of voir dire. They were questioned both in the 19 questionnaire, and I think every single one of the people in that box said it doesn't matter to me. I said to them, so many of the jury, would you like to be on trial for your religious **22** beliefs? I honestly think the jurors -- this strikes me as 23 being a very good set of jurors. But you've argued in front of -13:-33:-19 **24** juries, and I think the voir dire process in some small part is -13:-33:-19 ${f 25}$ intended to make sure that none of these defendants was on trial

- because of their religious beliefs, whatever those beliefs were, 00:30:55 and to the extent that the jurors may have a perception that -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{3}$ there's a certain radical component to Islam, whichever to ex ---13:-33:-19 I think they understand that's a religious linkage that cannot -13:-33:-19 be a factor. So I don't think they need to have any -13:-33:-19 explanation about Islam.
- -13:-33:-19 As I said, what Jihad can mean, what the term can mean, and perhaps just a touch about, quote, Jihadist movements, -13:-33:-19 but I'm not even sure about that because we start veering off into this area and getting further and further away from the evidence in this case, any nexus with these defendants or -- or -13:-33:-19 $f 12\,$ Mr. Amawi, or any of the defendants because all of them use the -13:-33:-19 **13** term Jihad.
- -13:-33:-19 **14** MR. BRYAN: First of all, as it relates to the 15 jurors, I would agree with Your Honor and everything Your Honor -13:-33:-19 **16** said about the jurors. I would give Your Honor credit for the -13:-33:-19 **17** manner in which voir dire was conducted. And this isn't meant -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{18}$ to stroke Your Honor in hopes of some future ruling in my favor, -13:-33:-19 **19** but it was the most informative jury selection process that I've ever been part of in front of a court. And I think it was very informative and I agree with Your Honor, I believe that we were -13:-33:-19 **22** able to select -- at least based upon current perception, we **24** it through that vetting process.

Notwithstanding that, first or second day of trial

-13:-33:-19

- 1 we came across a juror who apparently had some very strong
 2 anti-Muslim biases.
- THE COURT: I'm not so sure that's the case. But anyway. You're right. I'm going to say it didn't work
- o_{0:32:47} **5** perfectly. That's why we have PD.
- MR. BRYAN: But Islam is not something that is
- $_{ ext{-}13: ext{-}33: ext{-}19}$ within the common understanding of this jury as it relates to
- -13:-33:-19 **b** the rules of evidence and being able to provide the jurors with
- -13:-33:-19 **9** evidence that is helpful to them in their fact determination
- -13:-33:-19 10 process. I agree with Your Honor that this case isn't about
- -13:-33:-19 **11** Islam. It's not about the Iraq war. But this case also isn't
- $_{00:33:12}$ $\mathbf{12}$ being viewed in a vacuum. The context of this case is, in fact,
- -13:-33:-19 13 the government will say the motivation behind our clients'
- -13:-33:-19 **14** intentions is the desire to seek revenge for the Iraq war. And
- -13:-33:-19 **15** Islam is a part of a lot of what our clients are saying, a lot
- -13:-33:-19 16 of their viewpoints and what they believe. And a Jihad, in
- 00:33:33 **17** defining it, I agree, Your Honor already agrees, that we have to
- $\mathbf{18}$ be able to define Jihad in more than the simple dictionary
- 00:33:41 **19** definition of the term.
- oo:33:44 **20** As it relates to Mr. Aslan's testimony, again, he
- -13:-33:-19 21 will soon have a Ph.D. in sociology, sociology of religion, and
- 00:33:56 **22** his doctoral dissertation is directly relevant to this case,
- 00:34:00 **23** Jihadism as a social movement. To summarize that social
- $_{ ext{00:}34:03}$ ${f 24}$ movement, consistent with the law, a lot of what $^{\wedge}$ *** Professor
- -13:-33:-19 ${f 25}$ Ordman (phonetically) was saying, that in the Middle East, in

- the Islamic culture, there are, especially young men, that are -13:-33:-19 2 very drawn to the Jihadist movement. It is -- in essence to 00:34:17 **3** become the Middle Eastern or the Arabic man's kids' marines. -13:-33:-19 4 You know how we look up to the Marines in this country; they -13:-33:-19 would look up to the Mujahidin. And they have pure motives, but -13:-33:-19 that doesn't mean they're going to join the Mujahidin any more -13:-33:-19 than it means that American kids who fantasize about growing up -13:-33:-19 and becoming a Marine are going to join the Marines. Some do, 00:34:47
- But I think it can be summarized, his testimony could be summarized, in essence, with this one sort of idea, and that is Mr. Aslan will testify --

and some don't.

- THE COURT: A little slower, please.

 MR. BRYAN: That experts that coin the term GOGs,
- oci35:14 15 or Group of Gods, to describe the small group of young Muslim men often in the west who get together around this Jihadist ideology and follow it. They sit around, they watch Jihadist videos, they complain, they talk in increasingly macho terms about who would do what if they were on the battle field. And many things -- much of the testimony that we've heard so far through the tapes has always been that conditional, "if", if I

were in Iraq, I would walk amongst the tanks and everyone would see how brave I was and that I wasn't afraid to die for my cause, and I think that would be very moving; those types of

comments are made in these tapes.

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-13:-33:-19	THE COURT: The fact that others do that, how does
-13:-33:-19	that prove that that's what was going on here to the extent that
-13:-33:-19	it was?
00:36:13	MR. BRYAN: Just to complete what I was saying
00:36:16	THE COURT: Go ahead.
00:36:17	MR. BRYAN: What they would do if they were on the
00:36:19	battle field, how they would fight back. Who would be the
00:36:22	toughest and most fearless, et cetera, but they don't do
00:36:25	anything. I see that in a lot of the comments that Mr. El-Hindi
-13:-33:-19 10	had made. I see it, admittedly, in a lot of the comments that
-13:-33:-19 11	Mr. Amawi has said. And the key is: This is commonplace. The
00:36:40 12	type of conversations and the type of activity that was taking
00:36:43 13	place with our clients, and specifically Mr. Amawi, viewing
-13:-33:-19 14	videos with the informant in this case and talking tough about,
-13:-33:-19 15	you know, "if" if I was there, it would be my pleasure to
-13:-33:-19 16	kill American soldiers; it would be my pleasure to cut their
-13:-33:-19 17	heads is part of this social movement theory. There are
00:37:03 18	people who support the cause, who support the cause but would
-13:-33:-19	never join the cause. And if the jury is not permitted to hear
-13:-33:-19 20	that, then all they're left with is the government's inferences
-13:-33:-19 21	that they want to be drawn from what our clients say or my
00:37:22 22	arguments. And I agree
-13:-33:-19 23	THE COURT: You said drawn to this. I didn't hear
-13:-33:-19 24	what you're saying. If the jury doesn't hear this
00:37:36 25	MR. BRYAN: If the only thing that the jury hears

is the tapes that are being played, which obviously we're not -13:-33:-19 2 arguing about the evidence or the validity of it, in hearing -13:-33:-19 But if that's all they are allowed to hear and the -13:-33:-19 government's arguments that he said if he was in Iraq he'd kill -13:-33:-19 American soldiers. He said if he was in Iraq it would be his 00:37:55 pleasure to cut their heads. He said that he would walk -13:-33:-19 amongst the tanks and show how fearless he was. He said all 00:38:02 these things. And they're not aware that in the Muslim world, -13:-33:-19 in the Arabic communities around the world, that young men sit around, watch these videos, and say these things all the time. -13:-33:-19 Now, admittedly, that's not -- that's not our case -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{12}$ that we're talking about what they're doing around the world, -13:-33:-19 13 but I think we should be permitted to explain to the jury that -13:-33:-19 **14** these viewpoints and these things that are said by our clients aren't that uncommon. And this is now weaving Mr. Aslan and 16 ***Professor Alterman's testimony together, both from a -13:-33:-19 **17** religious standpoint, from a social movement theory under sociology, and from a cultural standpoint that young Arabic Muslim men frequently cheer against the United States, frequently cheer for the death of American soldiers, yet they don't go in -- take it to the next step and become a mujahidist 00:39:12 **22** or a warrior or a fighter. 00:39:15 23 Similar, another social movement theory, and I -13:-33:-19 **24** don't think this is the best example, would be young inner-city

youth adopting sort of the rap mentality and they listen to rap

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songs about how glamourous it is to sell drugs and to carry a 00:39:29 Gat, which is slang for a gun, and to, you know, kill the -13:-33:-19 police. But they don't do it. -13:-33:-19 THE COURT: That is perhaps a good analogy. 00:39:44 And why can't -- a couple things. It seems to me that is an apt analogy, that, ladies and gentlemen, we all know how popular rap 00:39:55 music is in this country and how appealing it is to many, many -13:-33:-19 young people, almost none of them wind up doing any of the 00:40:07 things that they listen to music -- listen to this music about. 00:40:11 That they may even sing about, they talk about and they try to imitate in various kinds of ways, in terms of dress and language -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{12}$ and attitude and outlook, but they don't go out and shoot police 13 officers. The same is true here. And it also seems to me there -13:-33:-19 **14** are some pretty clear, at least at this point, circumstances in -13:-33:-19 **15** evidence that give you a very strong basis at this point to 16 argue: Ladies and gentlemen, what did they really do? Mr. -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{17}$ Amawi goes back to Jordan, I can't remember how many months he -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{18}$ was there, and talking to Mr. Griffin, well, I'm not going to Syria, we can't get in. He stayed home apparently. And wherever these people are that were so actively involved in creating cells and killing and training, one, two, three, maybe -13:-33:-19 f 22 two over how many months, we don't know what you have available -13:-33:-19 **23** to you -- and again, I just have a -- candidly, we go, if we go 24 that direction for the defense, I think the government's desire 25 to go in Mr. Kohlmann's direction for very similar reasons, say,

- -13:-33:-19 look, this -- Mr. Amawi had this really massive collection of
- videos, suggest to the jury that there's something pathological
- -13:-33:-19 **3** about all of this, and we wind up focusing and fussing about
- -13:-33:-19 4 stuff that gets us further and further away from the stone's
- 5 path in the pond. The ripples don't get smaller; they get
- 00:42:19 **6** bigger. That's really my concern.
- 00:42:24 MR. HERDMAN: Your Honor, if I may briefly. With
- 00:42:26 **&** respect to Evan Kohlmann, he's probably not the best expert that
- 00:42:30 **9** would be best suited.
- THE COURT: No, I'm saying the areas you want him
- -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{1}oldsymbol{1}$ to testify to, just what I wanted to say in response to Mr.
- -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{12}$ Bryan's notion of Islam as a social -- or Jihad as a social
- 00:42:42 13 movement is that the Group of Guys theory that was developed by
- -13:-33:-19 **14** Mr. Sageman. The Group of Guys Theory was not developed by Mr.
- -13:-33:-19 **15** Aslan. In fact, it was developed by, at least as far as I'm
- -13:-33:-19 **16** aware, a person by the name of Mark Sageman, and it refers
- 00:43:02 17 specifically to groups of young men who do become radicalized
- -13:-33:-19 18 and then ultimately commit acts of violent Jihad, suicide
- 00:43:10 19 bombings or attacks. So it seems to me that it would be in the
- -13:-33:-19 ${f 20}$ government's imperative, if this testimony were allowed by Mr.
- 00:43:17 Aslan with respect to Jihad as a social movement, the government
- $_{\text{-13:-33:-19}}$ **22** would be entitled to respond with similar expert testimony
- -13:-33:-19 23 saying, no, the way we know about these Groups of Guys...
- -13:-33:-19 **24** I agree completely. In other words, I wouldn't
- -13:-33:-19 25 say -- the point I was making, though, if we start going off in

the directions that their experts want to take us, that seems to 00:43:37 2 me to be every bit as ancillary and to have very little useful -13:-33:-19 probative value. But on the other hand, it seems to me quite 00:43:50 similar to when I read Mr. Kohlmann's report, that there was a 00:43:55 massive quantity of information about all kinds of stuff, that -13:-33:-19 there is some maybe little thread of relationship here and 00:44:08 there, but it doesn't have that firm kind of connection into -13:-33:-19 this case, the activities charged to the defendants, or to them -13:-33:-19 themselves. 00:44:26

MR. GETZ: Respectfully, Your Honor, I would
disagree with that for the following reasons: I'll take that as
an example. The reason that that testimony is connected to
this case is because it is connected to the evidence. Once
again, that evidence that is already or will be introduced in
the case. Now, I understand the Court's concerns about the
ripples; I'll concede that's moving out in a direction away from
the center here. But what Counsel is referring to doesn't even
tie back directly to something concrete like that.

THE COURT: I understand.

MR. GETZ: And I do think Mr. Sofer's point is very
well taken, which is I'm sitting here listening to these
theories that Counsel is throwing out, there is a large body of
information and expert testimony throughout which takes a very
contrary view to this. And would I think there's many experts
who would come in here and say the actions in this case and the

- information that's -- that was developed by the government very
 well -- that their expert testimony would be that these men were
 well on their way to doing exactly the kinds of things that our
 country fears. We're not going that -- that's something we've
 never tried to introduce to the case.
- The only expert we've proffered has at least been limited to sort of the forensic evidence that was recovered in the case, not some broader version of terrorism or social movements or even just human interaction. It goes back to where the government started with all of this, which is my point, which is, so long as we are focused on the issues in the case, and evidence in the case, the government is comfortable with expert testimony. I think all three of these experts -it's almost the exact same simple concept which is we're moving beyond the evidence and into something else.
- THE COURT: I understand. As I've said fairly
 17 frequently, my concern is the nexus. And let me say we do have
 18 to finish, maybe a couple more minutes. There is an issue we
 19 have to discuss in chambers and you have to go.
- 00:46:56 **20** MR. HARTMAN: Yes, I have to go in about 15 -13:-33:-19 **21** minutes.
- THE COURT: It's going to take five, ten minutes to talk about.
- -13:-33:-19 **24** MR. HARTMAN: Can we discuss that with Mr. Helmick and Mr. Doughten?

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00:47:08	MR. GETZ: I don't think the question, Your Honor,			
-13:-33:-19 2	what I know of it, from what little I know of this, I don't			
-13:-33:-19	believe we can.			
00:47:15	MR. HARTMAN: I'll call and see if he can get back			
-13:-33:-19 5	here.			
00:47:19	THE COURT: Or by phone. Phone is fine. Either			
00:47:24	here or, David, either one.			
00:47:26	MR. BRYAN: Your Honor, it's very important that I			
-13:-33:-19	address this issue of Evan Kohlmann in this respect. A lot of			
00:47:41 10	this when we sought out experts a lot of it had to do in			
-13:-33:-19 11	response to Mr. Kohlmann, quite frankly. But at the same time,			
-13:-33:-19 12	we think comparing our experts to comparing the Court's concerns			
-13:-33:-19 13	about Mr. Kohlmann are a little bit like comparing apples to			
-13:-33:-19 14	oranges. The government already has the impression that if			
00:48:05 15	they're looking at something so horrific, and you support that			
00:48:10 16	which you're looking at, they have the common-sense			
00:48:13 17	supposedly common-sense belief that most people will say, well,			
00:48:18 18	if you support it you're likely to do it. You're just this far			
-13:-33:-19	away.			
-13:-33:-19 20	I disagree with their statement that people who			
00:48:25 21	watch these videos and collect large volumes of these videos, I			
-13:-33:-19 22	think Your Honor does as well, because there is what Mr.			
-13:-33:-19 23	Kohlmann was trying to convey, that they are just that far away			
-13:-33:-19 24	from becoming a Mujahidin, a Jihadist, that they are going to			
00:48:41 25	carry out a terrorist act. What our experts are here to say is			
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- this is commonplace, it's commonplace throughout the Middle East 00:48:45 2 that people sit around, they talk about these things, they cheer -13:-33:-19 3 for their side, they cheer for the Arab side. They view these -13:-33:-19 4 videos, they use these videos to educate one another because -13:-33:-19 they don't believe they're getting a fair story. The chance of -13:-33:-19 a people viewing a lot of videos then putting something into -13:-33:-19 action -- true, Mr. Herdman talks about the radicalization 00:49:07 process, that happens from time to time out of the legion of 00:49:11 individuals that are looking at this stuff. From time to time those people become mobilized, they are able to do so. What Mr. Aslan also will testify to is in order for that to occur, 12 there usually has to be some intensive one-on-one contact with -13:-33:-19 13 what the -- what the literature suggests are -- they call them 14 mobilizers, recruiters, people; not through a videotape but $_{ ext{-}13\cdot\cdot33\cdot\cdot19}$ $\mathbf{15}$ after someone has been indoctrinated by someone acting as a -13:-33:-19 **16** father figure, someone acting as a mobilizer to try to get -13:-33:-19 $oldsymbol{17}$ people to take those personal feelings and turn them into 18 action. -13:-33:-19 **19** So generally the social movement theory says that most people are free riders. What Evan Kohlmann says is the contrary; the converse is true. He's saying because you're -13:-33:-19 **22** looking at those videos, you're that far away from joining the -13:-33:-19 **23** cause. That's what the government wants to argue to the jury.
- -13:-33:-19 **Z5** THE COURT: Mr. Kohlmann isn't even on the bench.

00:50:20 **24** That's why they want to introduce Evan Kohlmann still.

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-13:-33:-19	He's outside the park somewhere.			
00:50:32	MR. BRYAN: Well, the government I just received			
00:50:34	before the Court today the government's suggestions.			
00:50:36	THE COURT: I'll look at that Monday.			
-13:-33:-19 5	MR. BRYAN: Minimizing his testimony. We'll			
-13:-33:-19	address that on Monday, but as it relates to the issue of			
_	jihadism and in terms that can be defined, we don't feel that			
	our expert if we're just going to have him come in and define			
	the term, we feel that we're just as happy with the			
	stipulations. If our experts aren't going to be permitted to			
	testify to the meat and potatoes of that, which we need them to			
	testify to to help them explain in innocent terms our clients'			
-13:-33:-19 13	conduct, and not in sinister terms our clients' conduct, then			
-13:-33:-19 14	but instead they're just permitted to come in and say this is			
-13:-33:-19 15	what this term mean, we're prepared to do that with			
-13:-33:-19 16	stipulations. We're even willing to concede some of the			
-13:-33:-19 17	government's interpretations of what those stipulations have			
00:51:26 18	said.			
00:51:27 19	THE COURT: Excuse me, deputy, could you ask Deputy			
00:51:31 20	Wagner, if he's still here, if he could come down.			
00:51:47 21	MR. HARTMAN: I didn't get Helmick. We're going			
00:51:51 22	to try Doughten.			
00:51:52 23	(Whereupon there was a conference in chambers			
24	sealed by order of the Court.)			
25				
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1	CERTIFICATE	
2		
3	I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from	om the
4	record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.	
5		
6	/s Tracy L. Spore	
7	Tracy L. Spore, RMR, CRR Date	
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